

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
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)
)
v.) 3:06-cr-141-MEF
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CLAUDE JEROME WILSON II)

DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTIONS

COMES NOW, the Defendant, Claude Jerome Wilson II, by and through undersigned counsel, J. Carlton Taylor, and respectfully requests that the following jury instructions be given to the jury in the above styled case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this the 4th day of August, 2008.

/s/ J. Carlton Taylor
J. CARLTON TAYLOR (TAY058)
ASB-5037-L53J
Attorney for the Defendant

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DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 1

**DUTY TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS
PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE**

You must make your decision only on the basis of the testimony and other evidence presented here during the trial; and you must not be influenced in any way by either sympathy or prejudice for or against the Defendant or the Government.

You must also follow the law as I explain it to you whether you agree with that law or not; and you must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You may not single out, or disregard, any of the Court's instructions on the law.

The indictment or formal charge against any Defendant is not evidence of guilt. Indeed, every Defendant is presumed by the law to be innocent. The law does not require a Defendant to prove innocence or to produce any evidence at all. The Government has the burden of proving a Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and if it fails to do so you must find that Defendant not guilty.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358, 364, 90 S.Ct. 1068, 1073, 25 L.Ed.2d 368 (1970) (The due process clause protects all criminal defendants "against conviction except upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt of every fact necessary to constitute the crime with which he is charged."); see also *Harvell v. Nagle*, 58 F.3d 1541, 1542 (11th Cir. 1995), reh'g denied, 70 F.3d 1287 (11th Cir. 1995).

DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 2

DEFINITION OF REASONABLE DOUBT

Thus, while the Government's burden of proof is a strict or heavy burden, it is not necessary that a Defendant's guilt be proved beyond all possible doubt. It is only required that the Government's proof exclude any "reasonable doubt" concerning the Defendant's guilt.

A "reasonable doubt" is a real doubt, based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, is proof of such a convincing character that you would be willing to rely and act upon it without hesitation in the most important of your own affairs. If you are convinced that the Defendant has been proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, say so. If you are not convinced, say so.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Daniels, 986 F.2d 451 (11th Cir. 1993), opinion readopted on rehearing, 5 F.3d 495 (11th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, 114 S.Ct. 1615, 128 L.Ed.2d 342 (1994) approves this definition and instruction concerning reasonable doubt; see also *United States v. Morris*, 647 F.2d 568 (5th Cir. 1981); *Victor v. Nebraska*, 114 S.Ct. 1239, 127 L.Ed.2d 583 (1994) (discussing "reasonable doubt" definition and instruction).

DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 3

CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES

You, as jurors, are the sole and exclusive judges of the credibility of each of the witnesses called to testify in this case and only you determine the importance or the weight that their testimony deserves. After making your assessment concerning the credibility of a witness, you may decide to believe all of that witness' testimony, only a portion of it, or none of it.

In making your assessment you should carefully scrutinize all of the testimony given, the circumstances under which each witness has testified, and every matter in evidence which tends to show whether a witness, in your opinion, is worthy of belief. Consider each witness' intelligence, motive to falsify, state of mind, and appearance and manner while on the witness stand. Consider the witness' ability to observe the matters as to which he or she has testified and consider whether he or she impresses you as having an accurate memory or recollection of these matters. Consider also any relation a witness may bear to either side of the case, the manner in which each witness might be affected by your verdict, and the extent to which, if at all, each witness is either supported or contradicted by other evidence in the case.

Inconsistencies or discrepancies in the testimony of a witness or between the testimony of different witnesses may or may not cause you to disbelieve or discredit such testimony. Two or more persons witnessing an incident or a transaction may simply see or hear it differently. Innocent mis-recollection, like failure of recollection, is not an uncommon experience. In weighing the effect of a discrepancy, however, always consider whether it pertains to a matter of importance or an insignificant detail and consider whether the discrepancy results from innocent error or from intentional falsehood.

After making your own judgment or assessment concerning the believability of a witness you can then attach such importance or weight to that testimony, if any, that you feel it deserves. You will then be in a position to decide whether the government has proven the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Authority: *Federal Jury Practice and InstructionsI*, Devitt, Blackmar, Woff and O'Malley, §15.01 (1992).

DEPENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 4

BIAS AND HOSTILITY

In connection with your evaluation of the credibility of the witnesses, you should specifically consider evidence of resentment or anger which some government witnesses may have towards a Defendant.

Evidence that a witness is biased, prejudiced or hostile toward a Defendant requires you to view that witness' testimony with caution to weight it with care, and subject it to close and searching scrutiny.

Authority: 1 L.Sand, et al., *Model Federal Jury Instructions-* Instruction 7-2 (1996)

DEPENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 5

STATEMENT OR CONDUCT OF DEFENDANT

Evidence relating to any alleged statement, confession, admission, or act or omission alleged to have been made or done by a Defendant outside of court and after a crime has been committed should always be considered by the jury with caution and weighted with great care. All such alleged statements, confessions, admissions or acts or omissions should be disregarded entirely unless the other evidence in the case convinces the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the statement, confessions, admission, or act or omission was made or done knowingly and voluntarily.

It is for the jury to decide (1) whether the particular Defendant made the statement and (2) if so, how much weight to give to it. In making those decisions you should consider all of the evidence about the statement, including the circumstances under which the particular Defendant may have made it.

In determining whether any statement, confession, admission, or act or omission alleged to have been made by a Defendant outside of court after a crime has been committed was knowingly and voluntarily made or done, the jury should consider the age, training, education, occupation, and physical and mental condition of the Defendant, his treatment while in custody or under interrogation as shown by the evidence in the case, and all other circumstances in evidence.

If after considering the evidence you determine that a statement, confession, admission, or act or omission was not made or done knowingly or voluntarily, you must ignore such statement, confession, admission or act or omission, and may give it no weight.

If after considering the evidence you determine that a statement, confession, admission, or act or omission was made or done knowingly and voluntarily, you may still give it such weight or not as you feel it deserves under the circumstances in evidence.

Authority: *Eleventh Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions Criminal*. Special Instructions 2.1 and 2.2 (1997). *Federal Jury Practice and Instructions*, Devitt & Blackmar, §14.03 (1992) (modified); 18 U.S.C.A. §3501; *Crane v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 683 (1986); *Jackson v. Denno*, 378U.S. 368 (1964).

DEPENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 6

ON OR ABOUT - KNOWINGLY - WILLFULLY

You will note that the indictment charges that the offense was committed "on or about" a certain date. The Government does not have to prove with certainty the exact date of the alleged offense. It is sufficient if the Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged.

The word "knowingly" as that term has been used from time to time in these instructions, means that the act was done voluntarily and intentionally and not because of ignorance, mistake or accident.

The word "willfully," as that term has been used from time to time in these instructions, means that the act was committed knowingly, voluntarily and purposely, with the specific intent to do something the law forbids; that is with bad purpose either to disobey or disregard the law.

Authority: *Eleventh Circuit Pattern Jury instructions Criminal*, Basic Instruction 9.1 (1997) (modified); *Staples v. United States*, 114 S.Ct. 179, 1796 (1994) (requirement to instruct as to "knowingly") *Ratzlaf v. United States*, 114 S.Ct. 655, 657 (1994) (requirement to instruct as to meaning of "willfully")

DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 7

LAW ENFORCEMENT WITNESSES

You have heard the testimony of several law enforcement officials. The fact that a witness may be employed by the federal government as a law enforcement official does not mean that his or her testimony is necessarily deserving of more or less consideration or greater or lesser weight than that of an ordinary witness.

At the same time, it is quite legitimate for the defense counsel to try to attack the credibility of a law enforcement witness on the grounds that his or her testimony may be colored by a personal or professional interest in the outcome of the case. If is your decision, after reviewing all of the evidence, whether to accept the testimony of the law enforcement witness and to give to that testimony whatever weight, if any, you find it deserves.

Authority: 1 L.Sand, et al., *Modern Federal Jury Instructions* - Instruction #7- 16 (1992).

DEFENDANT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 8

**POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY CONVICTED FELON
(18 U.S.C. 922(g))**

The crime of being a felon in possession of a firearm, as charged in Count I of the indictment, has three essential elements, which are:

- ONE: The Defendant had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- TWO: The Defendant thereafter knowingly (an act is done "knowingly" if done voluntarily and intentionally, and not because of mistake or accident or other innocent reason) possessed a firearm, that is a Glock 26 9 mm, Serial #ELH284; and
- THREE: At some time prior to the Defendant's possession of the firearm, it was transported across a state line.

You are instructed that by stipulation of the parties, the Defendant has been previously convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

If you have found beyond a reasonable doubt that the firearm in question was manufactured in a state other than Alabama and that the Defendant possessed that firearm in the state of Alabama, then you may, but are not required to, find that it was transported across a state line.

The term "firearm" means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designated to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

For you to find the Defendant guilty of the crime charged, the government must prove all of these essential elements beyond a reasonable doubt; otherwise you must find Mr. Wilson not guilty.

Authority: 8th Circuit Pattern Jury Instruction
6.18.922

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this the 4th day of August, 2008, I electronically filed the foregoing Defendant's Requested Jury Instructions with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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s//J. Carlton Taylor

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